(c) whether this proposal is being considered to keep away the entry of new operators so that the existing operators could monopolise;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the optimum number of cellular operators Government are trying to licence in various service areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) On 13.04.2007, Government had sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the issue of limiting the number of access providers in each service area and review of certain terms and conditions in the access provider license. On 29.08.2007, TRAI has recommended that no cap be placed on the number of access services providers in any service area. As on date, no decision has been taken on TRAI's recommendations.

Services in post offices

†2474. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to use post offices for other services besides postal services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of post offices where such above mentioned services would be available;

(c) the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether it is also a fact that condition of post offices set up in rural areas is quite miserable; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by Government for improvement in post offices in the above mentioned areas and the achievements of Government in this regard during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Department of Posts is offering a few selected services besides postal services with an objective to leverage its network and to utilize its existing infrastructure optimally.

(b) and (c) The details are given the Statement-I (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The condition of the rural post offices is satisfactory. The Department is enhancing the facilities in rural areas on an ongoing basis. It is improving the ergonomics and ambience of the rural post offices especially the Gramin Dak Sevak Branch Offices. The details of post offices where furniture, stamp box, weighing scales etc. have been provided in the last three years, Statewise, is given in Statement-II and III.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

details of various services (besides postal services) being offered in post offices in the States

S1. No.	Name of Circle	Particulars of Service	No. of Post Offices
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Sale of all common entrance test application forms of the Government of Andhra Pradesh	110
		Sale of Public Service Commission forms of the State Government	104
		Sale of Pre-paid cards/coupons/	5315
		Sale of magazines/books/ publications etc.	4304
		Collection of subscription for various magazines/publications	5530
		Acceptance of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Premia	484
		Retailing of mutual funds	6086
		Collection of BSNL Telephone Bills	13510
		Collection of water tax, house tax, electricity bills etc.	44
		Payment of wages to NREG, Act beneficiaries	13887
		Collection and processing of Post Office Saving Bank Cheques for financial institutions/banks	2445
		Sale of Rakhi envelops	1011
		Booking and dispatch of 'Prasadam' of various temples in Andhra Pradesh	15,586
		Sale and acceptance of passport application forms	101
		Revision of electoral rolls	5234
		Sale of non life insurance products of Oriental Insurance Ltd.	2445
		Installation of TATA coin collection boxes	85

1	2	3	4
		Sale of Nizaim Jewellery Exhibition Tickets	10
2.	Assam	Sale of UPSC forms	19
		Sale and acceptance of passport application forms	34
		Booking of Railway Tickets (proposed)	1
		Retailing of Mutual funds	23
		International Money Transfer Service	16
3.	Bihar	BSNL mobile application verification Telephone revenue collection Retailing of application forms for State/Central Government examination/educational institutions etc.	1042
4.	Chhattisgarh	Address verification of BSNL customers	334
		Telephone revenue collection of BSNL	334
		Sale of books and publications	9 head post offices
		Sale of BSNL recharge coupons	334
		Sale of application forms for the State public service commission and other Government recruitment exams	46
		Sale and acceptance of passport application forms	47
5.	Delhi	Collection of Challans of Delhi Traffic Police through post men	4 post offices of rural areas
6.	Gujarat	Collection of State Electricity Board Bills	8855
		Disbursement of widow financial assistance	8968

1	2	3	4
		Collection of Post Paid Bills for various Telecom providers	360
		Sale of Aloe Vera products	8968
7.	Haryana	Address verification of BSNL subscribers	2653
		Sale of application forms for various educational institutions	20
		Collection of telephone/electricity bills	2653
		Sale of various publications	170
		Sale of non life insurance products of Oriental Insurance Ltd.	16
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Sale of Recharge coupons of various telecom service providers	288
		Sale of BSNL recharge coupons	461
		Address verification of subscribers for various telecom service providers	2779
		Sale of books	18
		Collection of bills for various telecom service providers	461
		Sale of application forms of various universities	17
		Sale and acceptance of passport application forms	29
		Sale of Rakhi envelops	17
		Acceptance of Income tax returns	65
		International Money Transfer Service	86
		Sale of non life insurance products of Oriental Insurance Ltd	258
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Retailing of publications	4
		Sale of Public Service Commission forms	22

1	2	3	4
		International money transfer	32
		Sale and acceptance of passport application forms	2
		Retailing of mutual funds	2
		Sale of non. life insurance products of Oriental Insurance Ltd.	20
10.	Jharkhand	Sale of recharge coupons/SIMcards of telecom service providers	25
		Installation of coin collection boxes (Pay Booth)	46
		Sale of family planning products of State, Government	55
		Sale of application forms of State Public Service Commission and other Educational Institutions	49
		Retailing of mutual fund products	25
		SBI-India Post Tie up	22
		Sale of Rakhi envelops and greeting cards	25
		Sale of non life insurance products of Oriental Insurance Ltd.	3091
		Sale of Assam Tea	25
		Survey of villages–Census Directorate	94
		Sale of judicial and non judicial stamps	22
		Acceptance of Income Tax returns	46
		Sale and acceptance of passport application forms	21
11.	Karnataka	Collection of utility bills, sale of recharge coupons, sale of air tickets, retailing of mutual funds, international money transfer services etc.	819
		SBI-India post Tie Up	21

1	2	3	4
12.	Kerala	Sale of Kerala Public Service application forms	All the post offices in the State
		Sale of recharge coupons of various telecom service providers	All the post offices in the State
		Collection of cheques for TVS Finance Limited	All the post offices in the State
		Sale of Swami Ayyappa Prasadam	All the post offices in the State
		Verification of addresses of subscribers for telecom service providers	All the post offices in the State
		Sale of membership of SUT Hospital Pvt. Ltd.	All the post offices in the State
		Distribution of coins – tie up with Reserve Bank of India	5
		International Money Transfer	640
		Retailing of mutual funds	All the post offices in the State
		Village survey for Census Directorate	All the post offices in the State
		Sale and acceptance of passport application forms	140
		Sale of non life insurance products of Oriental Insurance Ltd	All the post offices in the State
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Address verification and recovery of loan installment for Central Bank of India Collection of energy bills Collection of telephone bills of BSNL	1656
14.	Maharashtra	Collection of MTNL Bills,	308 (***)
		Collection of Electricity Bills	Post Offices in 22 Districts (***)
		Collection of BEST Bills	62 post offices in Mumbai(***)

1	2	3	4
		Collection of Mahanagar Gas Bills	193 post offices in Mumbai (***)
		Sale and acceptance of State Public Service Commission forms	61 Head Post Offices in the State
		Processing of Loan applications of Corporation Bank of India	36 post offices in Goa Division
		Sale of hallmark greeting cards	101
		Sale of Rakhi envelops	61
15.	North East(*)	Retailing the products of various Government, private and other Financial Institutions	25
16.	Orissa	Collection of bills, taxes, dues etc. through e payment	150
		Retailing of mutual funds	70
		Sale and acceptance of passport application forms	52
		International Money transfer	215
17.	Punjab	Collection of BSNL Bills	3941
		Collection of State electricity bills	1048
		Sale of non judicial stamp papers	126
		Sale of publications	22
		Sale of non life insurance products of Oriental Insurance Ltd.	72
		Retailing of mutual funds	174
		International Money Transfer	663
18.	Rajasthan	Collection of cheques for TVS finance	All the post offices in the State
		Collection of BSNL bills	All the post offices in the State
		Collection of electricity bills	1674
		Sale of publications.	48 head post offices
		Sale of HUTCH re charge coupons	10

1	2	3	4
		Sale of non life insurance products of Oriental Insurance Ltd	All the post offices in the State
		Retailing of mutual funds	All the post offices in the State
19.	Tamil Nadu	NABARD-SHG-Post Office linkage scheme for disbursement of Micro credit	1963(**)
		Sale of application forms, acceptance of fee etc. for various public service commission examinations	93 head post offices
		Acceptance of BSNL telephone bills	All the departmental post offices in the State
		Acceptance of bills of HUTCH, TATA, Airtel	131
		Clearance of cheques on behalf of non banking financial institutions	All the departmental post offices in the State
		International Money Transfer Service	776
		Retailing of mutual fund products	689
		Sale of non life insurance products of Oriental Insurance Ltd.	167
		SBI-India Post tie up	13 (**)
		Sale and acceptance of passport application forms	132
20.	Uttarakhand	Collection of electricity bills	862
		Retailing application forms of various Universities	11
		Retailing application forms of public service commission	2
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Sale of application forms of Government Universities	71 head post offices
		Address verification for telecom service providers	20215

1	2	3	4
		Sale and acceptance of passport application forms International Money Transfer	105

(*) North east includes Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.

(**) These services are offered in post offices in Tamil Nadu only. The rest of the services are offered in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

(***) These services are available in identified post offices in Maharashtra only. The rest of the services are available in Maharashtra and Goa.

Statement-II

State-wise details of number of Gramin Dak Sevak Branch Offices provided with infrastructural equipment

Sl. No.	Name of the postal circle	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	Andhra Pradesh	303	238	342
2	Assam	60	100	176
3	Bihar	150	150	170
4	Chhattisgarh	121	89	60
5	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	Gujarat	336	125	202
7	Haryana	27	20	30
8	Himachal Pradesh	38	28	51
9	Jammu and Kashmir	15	11	17
10	Jharkhand	52	38	57
11	Karnataka	172	126	201
12	Kerala	57	42	63
13	Madhya Pradesh	73	68	172
14	Maharashtra	225	168	252
15	North East	9	100	141
16	Orissa	148	104	172
17	Punjab	29	23	33
18	Rajasthan	128	130	132
19	Tamil Nadu	200	147	219
20	Uttar Pradesh	345	253	53
21	Uttarakhand	49	36	377
22	West Bengal	101	108	164
	TOTAL:	2638	2104	3084

Statement-III

State-wise details of post offices in rural areas where infrastructure equipment has been provided in the last three years

Sl. No	Name of the State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	Tripura	14	9	8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5	8	2
3	Manipur	7	9	4
4	Meghalaya	5	7	8
5	Mizoram	7	5	5
6	Nagaland	4	7	4
	TOTAL:	42	45	

Ombudsman for mobile owners

2475. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bring in Ombudsman for mobile owners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent this would address the long-standing need for a speedy and low cost redressal mechanism and control threatening calls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to appoint an ombudsman for mobile owners to redress their grievances.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Limited spectrum in a single circle

2476. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI is of the view that in view of the limited spectrum in a single circle, there should be a cap on the number of players in a circle;

(b) whether the Department of Telecom is also of the same view and the Cellular Operators Association of India, Bharti and Vodafone also support this view; and

(c) if so, the circumstances and compulsion under which 159 licences have been issued for providing access service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) On 13.04.2007, Government had sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory